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ularity of hours and of daily and weekly rests made with due consideration of the character of the work performed. In its report on sickness and injury the committee points out certain injurious conditions which should be guarded against as likely to diminish seriously the efficiency of the labor force "To conserve energy and efficiency is, other things being equal, the way to improve output." The medical examination of all workers before employment is recommended, and it is suggested that factories should provide proper sanitary facilities, safeguard machinery, make arrangements for adequate medical and nurse schemes, etc. The value of first-aid is emphasized.

The report on special industrial diseases gives the causes, methods of prevention and treatment for the principal industrial diseases which have been found to affect munition workers. Particular attention is directed to the importance of adequate lighting and ventilation which are absolutely essential for the maintenance of health and comfort and, therefore, the efficiency and capacity of the workers. Special measures to prevent undue strain upon eyesight and to reduce the liability of accidents to a minimum are recommended.

#### SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Karl Grove Gilbert, the distinguished geologist of the U. S. Geological Survey; of John Harper Long, professor of chemistry in Northwestern University Medical School; of Stephen Farnham Peckham, known for his work in the chemistry of bitumens; of George M. Searle, formerly professor of mathematics and astronomy in the Catholic University of America; of Richard Rathbun, assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution,

and of Sir Alexander Peddler, the English chemist.

THE Croonian Lecture before the Royal Society was delivered by Major W. B. Cannon, professor of physiology, Harvard Medical School, on June 20, the subject being "The physiological basis of thirst."—The Wilbur Wright memorial lecture of the British Aeronautical Society was delivered in the Central Hall, Westminster, on June 25, by Professor W. F. Durand, chairman of the American Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, scientific attaché to the American Aviation Mission in Europe, and professor of mechanical engineering, Stanford University, U. S. A. The subject was "Some Outstanding Problems in Aeronautics."

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science and the National Scientific Societies affiliated with it will meet at Baltimore in Convocation Week. It had been originally planned to meet in Boston, but under existing conditions it was thought best to choose a place as near as possible to the main centers of scientific activity and at the present time large numbers of scientific men are working at Washington. It is planned that the meeting will direct its main attention to the service of science in the present national emergency.

YALE UNIVERSITY received by the will of John W. Sterling, of the class of 1864, a distinguished New York lawyer, the residue of his estate, which it is said amounts to fifteen million dollars.—Mr. Hobart W. Williams has given to the University of Chicago property to the value of \$2,000,000, part of the income to be used for the development of the school of commerce and administration.